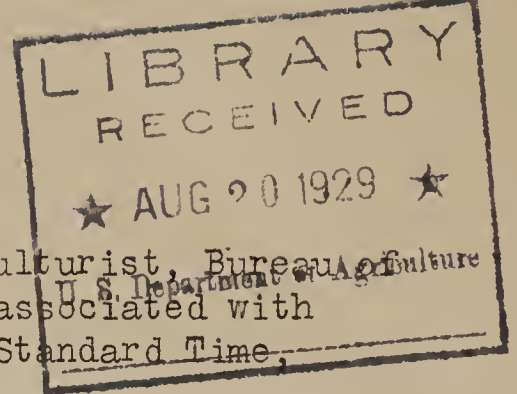


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9
P69 Ra

THE GARDEN CALENDAR.



A radio talk by Mr. W. R. Beattie, extension horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry, through Station WRC and 30 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, at 1:35 p. m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday, August 5, 1929.

Hello folks: The Weather Bureau reports that most of you enjoyed over the week end the same break in the heat which was so welcome to us in Washington. The warm spell here, by the way, was the longest since 1921. During the 48 hours since we last gave you this weather map reading, showers have been rather general from the Ohio and Mississippi Valley eastward to the Atlantic Coast and at scattered points in the South Atlantic and East Gulf States. Northwestern winds followed this disturbance, as you doubtless know. The winds have brought cooler weather to the middle and northern sections. But while we revel in the relief, we extend our sympathy to the West Gulf States where there has been no decided break in the warm spell.

Prospects for a fine crop of cucumbers in certain sections of the Eastern States were ruined during the last few weeks by downy mildew, says F. C. Meier, Extension Plant Pathologist of the Department. As a result of the devastation caused by this disease some farmers in eastern Virginia obtained less than 50 per cent of the expected yield. These growers can console themselves for the present season with the knowledge that this disease has been generally troublesome this year throughout the Southeast. For example, one of the outstanding features of the watermelon season just closed in the Southern States was the early appearance of downy mildew with its severe defoliation of the vines. As a matter of fact, when weather conditions are suitable, downy mildew is a common cucumber disease in the Eastern, Southern and Central States. It can be recognized by the yellowish angular spots on old leaves which soon curl up and die.

Although the cucumber season is over in sections where this disease was at its worst, this is a good time to think about methods of control for another year. The harvest period can usually be extended by spraying with Bordeaux mixture 4-4-50, 4 pounds copper sulphate, 4 pounds lime, and 50 gallons of water, or dusting the vines with 20-80 copper lime dust. The application of this fungicide at 7 to 10 day intervals will tend to give the leaves a protective coating. I would suggest that growers who have suffered losses from this disease the present year write to their State Experiment Station for full information, or write to Mr. F. C. Meier, care of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Orchards that have been under cultivation during the early part of the season will be greatly benefitted by growing some cover crop between the trees during the remainder of the season. The kind of crop to grow will depend upon locality but among the crops most commonly used are crimson clover, cowpeas, velvet beans, soy beans, rye, vetch or a combination of two or more of these crops. Alfalfa is used extensively as an orchard cover and soil-improving crop in the Northwestern States. Taking the matter

1. The first of these is the fact that the
the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

the first of these is the fact that the

as a whole, there is a wide range of crops that may be used as ground covers in orchards especially during the latter part of the summer after cultivation has been discontinued. Even a growth of certain grasses and weeds may be preferable to leaving the soil exposed to the direct rays of the sun also to washing during heavy rains. Prof. M. A. Blake of the New Jersey Experiment Station recommends the use of cover crops to add humus and plant food to the soil, and to increase the water absorption of the soil. Prof. Blake suggests that in lieu of something better, crab grass makes a good cover crop in the orchard.

Farmer's Bulletin Number 1-2-5-0 entitled Green Manuring gives information relative to crops suitable for use as cover crops. This bulletin may be secured free of charge from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

If you have a space as large as an ordinary living room in your home garden it will pay you to plant spinach for fall use. Market gardeners will also do well to plant spinach for fall marketing. Seed planted now, or any time during the month of August, will, in most localities give a good crop before cold weather as 6 to 8 weeks is generally sufficient to mature the crop. Late planted spinach can be left in the ground all winter throughout the South Central and Southern States. For example spinach is frequently wintered over around St. Louis, Missouri and Cincinnati, Ohio. Slight protection of the spinach bed with straw will frequently enable gardeners in colder localities to carry spinach through the winter. For early fall use plant either the Bloomsdale Savoy or the Long Standing Bloomsdale. For later planting use the Virginia disease resistant Savoy as it stands cold weather better than most other varieties. Plant spinach only on soil that is well fertilized in order to secure a quick, tender growth. Late planted spinach that is to be wintered over should not be highly fertilized, especially with nitrogen, when planted but the fertilizer should be added and worked into the soil about the time the plants start growth in the late winter or spring.

